

AREA 53 PANEL 65 AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2015, 1:00 P.M.

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

- Peggy A., Area Chair, called the meeting to order with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer
- Twelve Concepts (long form) was read by Kristi H., Delegate
- Roll Call: Note: Not everyone was back from lunch at time of Roll Call. GSR’s and Alt’s 31; DCM’s and Alt’s 5; Standing Committee Chairs 6; Area 53 Panel 65 Officers 5; Past Delegates 1.
- Review of the Agenda and December Assembly Minutes
Motion made by Marcia H to accept the December Assembly Minutes, 2nd by Domineque. Motion passed.

BUSINESS MEETING – Peggy A. Area Chair

TREASURER’S REPORT – DAN S.

- 75 copies provided to assembly
- Previous balance \$8,087; Total Funds Available \$13,999
- All contributing groups posted on Treasurer Report. Dan stated the number of groups could be improved.
- Delegate expenses were paid
- Officer expenses were paid \$5,590
- Contribution for housing subsidy exhausted
- Committee expenses paid \$922
- Dan commented there were two ways to read the report. The first is that there is good stewardship and the second is that we are an active area by sending our Delegate to New York, and we have very active committees that are carrying the message.
- Questions; Steve S. GSR 3 Legacies Group – the \$600 for the meeting and convention center expense? The \$600 covers contracting The Blue Moon Event Center in Grove City in June and September. \$300 was prepaid for rental of the facility.
- Kristi H. moves to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Terry G. 2nd Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Area 53 Inventory Ad-hoc Committee Final Report 2014 – Greg M. A53, Panel 63 Chair

- Survey report was provided and made available in the April 2014 edition of the COGF’s Conscious Contact Newsletter.
- There were only 31 Mail-in responses and 21 website responses received which equals 52 Total Surveys. About 29 groups responded (1 unknown Area) out of 720 (3.8%). Because of the low responses, this doesn’t allow for a good sampling of possible group responses. This requires a visit to the Area website.
- Questions: Jackie asked which April Conscious Contact Newsletter- Answer- 2014.
Becky M. asked how much money was spent on taking the inventory. Answer - \$430 was earmarked for the inventory but not all the funds were spent. The Inventory was not mailed out. Becky stated she would have preferred a written response.

Location of June Assembly – Peggy A. Area Chair

- Peggy stated that she and Steve S. had been working on finding a place and they came up with the Blue Moon Event Center 1604 Gateway Center in Grove City off I-79 South. Fliers are available. This place has a large meeting area. There is a microwave and refrigerator but no kitchen. There are bathrooms for both

sexes. Many restaurants are close by. The owner of the facility has coupons available for the restaurants. No deposit was needed. Each assembly is a \$300 flat fee. We can start at 8:00 a.m. and leave by 5:00 pm.

- Dan S., Treasurer, accommodated Peggy A. to the Blue Moon. They've already paid for June and September, and they will pay for December's event in June. Peggy stated her main goal was to find a place for all three assemblies.
- Questions: Steve S. asked if we could make our own coffee. Peggy stated pots were available. Jim F. asked how this relates to the Area Committee Meetings. Peggy stated they will still be held at the COGF.
- Peggy A. stated that all information for the Assembly will be on the website and she will email everyone as well. She also stated she would appreciate any feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

East Central Regional Request – Kristi H.

- Kristi H. stated there are 5 states and 14 Delegates that participate in the East Central Region. Bill F. is our ECR Trustee. The region has allocated a Hospitality Room at the International Convention (in Georgia this year). Kristi makes a motion that we give them \$500 to provide supplies for the hospitality room. It was 2nd by Fred W. The floor was opened for discussion by Peggy A. Area Chair.

Sharon F. asked what they are going to do with the \$500. Kristi H. stated the main costs will be for supplies, handouts, coffee and water.

Brandy stated she received an email about the hospitality rooms and their goal was to raise \$7000. Water and coffee would be provided. She doesn't understand what all the money is to be used for. Kristi stated they're going to develop that budget more, but that there is a corking fee for the water too.

Madeline stated the email doesn't specifically state what they want the \$7000 for but that the \$500 from each Area is not required, they're just asking for it. She also stated that our hospitality room is not in a very visible area. What are some of the other areas doing? Kristi H. stated that she didn't receive the email with the \$7000 explanation. She also explained that she understood they were going to develop the budget more, but she did not hear that the hospitality room would not be well attended but that it should be well attended.

Jeanne S., Past Delegate A53 P59 stated that Kim R. Past Regional Trustee had seen the room and that it is in the main concourse with high traffic. The room should be well visited with expectations of 50,000 to attend. We should buy their product. Our next international will be in Detroit. It is not that expensive and there is no demand to contribute. We don't need to be that cheap. The International only comes around once every five years.

Rich B., Past Chairman, stated that they had served over 1100 people for a State Convention and the bill came to about \$11,000. We need to anticipate how many people would be there. In the past they have averaged over 60,000 people at the Internationals. What would be the impact to our budget? Dan S., Treasurer, stated taking out the \$500, it would leave us to \$114 above our prudent reserve.

Madeline stated from the email received from Fred C. that our suite is not a main corridor, casual traffic would come from hotel guests. She also stated that this is not a service event, it is a celebration. Advisory action in the past advises that no money should be used by GSO for a non-service event. Do we have the \$500 for a non-service function?

Sharon F. stated that she did not receive the memo. She also stated that our next International will be in our region in Detroit. We will want to publicize this. As a region, we voted to do this. We should support this.

Kristi H. stated that Dan S. gave the current bank balance. The end of the year balance will show that we do have money for this. Dan S. stated the way he arrived at that budget was when he looked at the 2014 budget it would come up to \$114 above the prudent reserve.

Stephanie S., DCM D16 asked if we would be charged for a schedule of volunteers? Kristi H. replied yes.

Dave C., Past Delegate, stated he did not know the \$500 fee was being discussed. He understands that all they're doing is asking to be self-supporting. We are part of the E. Central Region and we should be supporting this. This is a good way of carrying the message. He also stated the entrance is from the street and leads to hallway to the hospitality room.

Ryan C. DCM D17 called the question. Dan H. 2nd.
Peggy A. stated we had to vote to call the question. 51 for, 1 opposed.

Kristi H. reinstated the motion to give the E. Central Region \$500 for the hospitality room at the International Convention. Sharon F. 2nd. 47 voted for, 14 opposed. Motion passed by 2/3 majority. No minority opinions. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS – Dan H. Alternate Chair

- **Alternate Chair Report** - Dan H., Alternate Chair, took over the 2nd half of the Assembly. He also stated he had nothing to report.
- **Delegate's Report** – Kristi H. reported she's been two months into panel. She has attended conference of past and present delegates in Michigan and received background information. She stated there is a full agenda on the area website. She said will be attending other mini-conferences the next three weeks. Looking forward to going to New York.
- **Area 53 Chairperson** – Peggy A. stated the new Area 53 Liaison is Terry G. She also stated that all DCM's should attend the Area Committee Meeting on April 12th at the COGF and will start at 10:30. Peggy also stated that all Area Officers and Chairs should attend at that time too. Jim F. asked if all interested AA's would be welcomed and Peggy replied yes, all can attend.
- **Registrar** – Ed A. stated there were 92 members registered at this Assembly. The COGF office maintains updates from different groups. They keep up to date along with two other central offices, AOIO and Lancaster. An email from New York provides information for a regional directory that is published every year. They are asking for updates annually. Please pass on group information changes (locations, times, etc.). Send to Ed A. by May 8th or to New York. They don't say whether they are publishing one this year. If groups don't have current information, this will affect the mailing of your Box 459. To update, visit the Area 53 website and aa.org website. He also has forms available.

District and Group Reports

- **DCMC** – Steve D. requested that all the DCM's attend the ACM on April 12th. Steve stated that there was some confusion regarding how the DCM reports would be presented at the assembly. The agenda advised that the DCM's would present the reports. The committee voted that the DCMC would highlight the DCM reports. The purpose was to have an abbreviated meeting to cut down on some of the time of the assembly. Two DCMs gave reports to Steve.

Stephanie S., DCM D16, stated she didn't recall that Steve was to read the reports. She was under the impression that the DCMs would read the GSRs reports.

Dana P., DCM D34, stated that the DCMs and GSRs would give the reports to Steve D. the night before for review so we could get through the process.

Ryan C., DCM D17, stated he received an email from Peggy A. Feb. 9th that DCMs would give the GSR reports. Ryan responded to Peggy's email, concerned that the reports should not be read by DCMs. The GSRs should give their own reports. He believes that the GSRs reading the reports validates the group's activities. It makes the district stronger. He said that in the interest of time is not a good reason to have someone else read the reports. He quoted Bill W. "The strength of our whole AA service structure starts with the group and the GSR the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR's importance..." Ryan stated he could never repay the debt for what AA has given him. That it is a valuable experience for the GSRs to give their own reports.

Nita S., Alt. Registrar. stated that she understood this was just to be a one-time decision for just this assembly.

Peggy A., Chair, stated that this assembly had to be modified and was just to save time and that we have had abbreviated meetings in the past. She apologized for mis-understandings. The following Assemblies everyone would be giving their reports.

Dana P., D 34, stated that her GSRs are why we are here. This decision was different from what her GSRs vote on and what was decided at the planning committee and we are wasting time.

Brandi stated that this doesn't negate the work our GSRs do.

Peggy A., Chair, stated that everyone in this room is important. The GSRs are important. This was just in the interest of time.

Steve S., D 16, stated that this discussion for March Assemblies has been going on for years. We arrived at a group conscious at the last DCM meeting and the last Area Committee Meeting on this decision and this should be the voice of a Loving God (2nd Tradition)... we are wasting time now.. Let the DCMs get up and give their reports. Come to the next Area Committee Meetings and DCM Meetings and make these decisions.

Steve D., DCMC, stated that he agreed with Steve S. that the group conscious voted on this but that the Agenda was a little different and the DCMs are to hand in the GSR reports.

Steve, DCMC, stated he had most of the reports but that they were out of order.

Taffy J., DCM D28 stated she appreciated the cabins, and gave her GSR reports. She reported her group, Clintonville, will not have meeting in April due to Easter.

Billy K, Alt GSR, Listening Post group has group conscious when needed.

Debra R., GSR, Big Book Group, no upcoming events but all are welcome to come to the meeting.

Ben O., GSR, Boiled Owls Meeting, have babysitting at meetings

Alberta A., GSR, Riverside, closed discussion meeting.

Rebecca R. GSR, Women's Early Bird, having 32nd Anniversary Saturday March 21 9:30 am.

Edward H., GSR, Plug in Jug group, stated they are active at Founder's Day

Teri G., GSR, Steps & Traditions Group has group conscious meeting last Monday of the month.

Kalen C., GSR, Life Begins @ 40 group, meets 10am on Tuesdays.

Steve D., DCMC, stated that we are going to have the DCMs read the GSR reports. Please be brief and not leave when you finish your report. Be respectful of others giving their reports

Peggy A., Chair called Point of Order and requested a 5 minute break...

Group Reports Continued – Steve D., DCMC

District 6 Sandy D., DCM reported they are updating their meeting list. Sponsorship Workshop to be held April 11th, Westminster Church in Steubenville, Oh.

- Lorna L. GSR Pathway to Serenity Group reported they have group conscious when needed. Only 2 active members (need support) that hold the GSR and treasurer positions.
- Marcie D. GSR HULP Group holds a group conscious 1st Friday of the month. Their group averages 25 attendees. They have a GSR, Secretary and Treasurer.

District 10 Corby K., DCM stated they are lighting up the district. They are having a Sponsorship Workshop on April 11th at Highpoint Nazarene Church.

- Fred W., GSR, Solution Group meets 7pm on Mondays

District 11 Steve D., DCMC read report for Brenda B., GSR, Marysville Fri. Night meets quarterly. They will be having a group conscious next week. They turned in a financial report.

District 12 Ann S., DCM, will be having cookout Saturday May 16, Highlands Church, Springfield. Speakers will be speaking on Service.

District 15 Matthew P., DCM, getting more GSR's active. Literature Rep was elected. Website has been updated. Had panel workshop.

- Dale W., GSR, Serenity Group, has group conscious 3rd Monday of month. Discussions have been on Serenity Prayer vs Lords Prayer, issuance of key to meeting house.
- Michael F., GSR, Fri. Night Colonial Group, will have 66th Anniversary late June 15th. They have the oldest meeting in Marietta and announce their meetings on a neon lighted sign provided by the church and approved by NY GSO.
- Cat R., GSR, 2 for 1 Group, planning an Anniversary Breakfast
- Patrice P., GSR, Hand in Hand Group, group conscious meets 1st Saturday of the month.
- Bruce W., GSR, Guidepath for Serenity Group, celebrated 3rd group anniversary in February. Watched GSO movie "Marking the Journey". Hosted District 15 Workshop on Sponsorship, Service and Spirituality in January.

District 16 Stephanie S., DCM, district has sub-committee putting on workshop "Our Purpose" (Singleness of Purpose) October 10th 2015. Flyers will be out soon. Their Sunday Lead Meeting moved from First Christian Church

to United Methodist Church on College Street across from garage. A 12 Step meeting had an overhaul in service positions. Their district paid for the DCM to come to Assembly.

- Paul P., GSR, Friday 12 & 12 group has group conscious every 3 months or as needed. Part of their contributions go to a Jail Fund, GSO and Central Office.
- David D., GSR, West Side Beginners Group, have group conscious meetings 2nd Wednesday of month. Discussions on what changes to make to make their group better. Planning anniversary dinner in December.

District 17 Ryan C., DCM, had district meeting discussion on objections to GSR not being able to give their reports. Deferred rest of reports to GSRs. Having a Step Workshop on April 11th 2015 at Sacred Heart Church in Pomeroy, Oh, 10am- 2pm.

- Adam W., GSR, Pleasant Valley Group, stated all chaired positions filled for meetings. Having 69th Anniversary Hog Roast Saturday, Aug. 4, 2015. Working with District 17 on Workshop.
- James C., GSR, Pomeroy Serenity Group, Having group Anniversary in December. Annual Picnic TBA, Working with D 17 on Workshop.

District 19 Steve D., DCMC read their report; Joanne L., GSR, Sunday Morning Sunshine Group, will have Annual Picnic August 22, 2015; Freedom Group is active.

District 22 Ed A. for James M. stated they are a newly formed group.

District 23 Lori R., GSR, Dirty Dozen 12&12 Group, recent group conscious voted to shorten opening readings and change from popcorn style to going around the room in order. March 9, 2015 the will have 13th Anniversary Lead Meeting.

District 26 Mike M., DCM, reported there were 7 GSRs at Assembly from his District. March 28th, 2015, Literature Workshop & Chili Cook Off (flyer) 10am-2pm New Life Church, Gahanna, Oh., April 8th, 2015, Easy Does it Beginners Group 6th Anniversary, 6pm, 7:30 Lead, Summit Station UM Church, Summit Station, Oh., April 12th, 2015, Southeast Breakfast Group- 39th Anniversary, 7:30am Breakfast, 9am Speaker. Mt. Carmel East Hospital, Reynoldsburg, OH., He also stated they have a group (Westerville Women's Recovery Group) that is working with another group to share the responsibility of sponsoring a meeting in a local treatment center at Parkside. A great example of how we can combine our AA Unity and Service. Mike also stated their After Work Group is taking a field trip to Akron to promote group unity.

- Becky M., GSR, After Work Group, taking a field trip to Akron in May.
- Don B., GSR, South East Breakfast Group; 39th Anniversary Breakfast, April 12th, 2015.
- Scott R., GSR, Easy Does It Group; 6th Anniversary April 8th, 2015
- Lisa E., GSR, NE Discussion Group move to a new location November 1st 2015
- Marcia H., GSR, Westerville Women's Recovery Group, will have their Anniversary in May; Has babysitting at meetings; Sponsor a weekly AA meeting for Women in a treatment facility with another group. They take turns every other month.
- Dominique M., GSR, Creekside Recovery Group; meets Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursday at Gahanna Community Congregational Church. Group conscious 1st Tue. of month.

District 34 Dana P., DCM, reported Possible Spring Round-up; Getting another meeting into FMC; Working on Alternate GSRs; 14 groups represented. Had 2 cabins for Assembly, 1 male, 1 female cabin.

- Terri H., GSR, Good Morning Breakfast Group, has 50 home group members and average attendance at meetings- 100. Sundays 9am Speaker meeting.
- Pam R., GSR, Women's New Hope Group offers babysitting during meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dan H. Alternate Chairperson

- Special Needs – Pam R., Chair, stated she would like to thank everyone for the survey information provided at the last Assembly. Based on the input, they have resolved to create Collection Cans to help offset the costs for Special Needs in our area – visually and hearing impaired, nursing home and homebound and assistance with babysitting. The following groups requested a Special Needs Collection Can on the survey. Could you please pick up your can from Sue M. in the hall. If you would like a can sent or brought to you, please see Mike, Terri, Beverly, or herself and they will make sure it happens.
Grove City Friday Night; Listening Post; Sunday Morning Sunshine Group, Hillsboro; West Side Beginners Group, Athens; 2 for 1 Group; HULP, Steubenville, (Marcie D.); Noon 12 Step Meeting; Big Book Towers Meeting; New Albany Sobriety Society; Sunbury Men Living Sober; Tuesday Night, Cadiz; Shawnee Group, Greg; Steve D. District 19; Crossties; Solution Group, Westerville.

There were groups that wanted to have a group conscious first before getting a can: Clintonville Big Book Group; The After Work Group; The 3 Legacies; The Solution Group; TGIF in Athens; Grove City Discussion Group; Strong Women in Sobriety; North East Discussion Group; Westerville Women’s Recovery Group. They will have more cans available at the next Assembly.
- Corrections Committee – Paul H., Chair, stated there is relatively new website, <http://area53cfc.org> linked from area53.org website. It has all the stuff that is on display (in digital format) in the hallway. They held a quarterly meeting yesterday. They approved \$5,000 for literature. Over \$20,000 per year for the last 3-4 years of literature. They use jugs for Corrections too. Annual Workshop flyer is available and is posted on the website. Workshop will be Saturday, May 2nd on the west side of Columbus. Featured is BBQ Pork. Located at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2930 West Broad Street, Columbus. They will have someone who is currently incarcerated and an AA member who was previously incarcerated to give leads.
- CPC/PI Committee - Cheryl S., Chair, stated the Area 53 CPC/PI Committee reaches the alcoholic by informing both the general public about the AA program and the “third person” whose work involves the active alcoholic. The Committee Meeting is the 1st Sunday of the month at Maple Grove Church, 7 West Henderson Rd., Columbus, OH. They have elected a new co- same they use at professional events. Cheryl stated she met with Racy, GSO Staffer, and they shared information on updated pamphlets. They also received Conference Advisory Actions (GSO) from 1951-2014. Appears to have great history. They have a request from District 16 for a display in October for a health fair at St. Peters Church. If anyone is interested in placing business cards in libraries or doctor’s offices please contact her by email at cpcpichair@area53aa.org.
- Group Services – Greg S. Chair, stated the GSR school at the mini-conference went very well with 45 in attendance. Group Services wants to thank all for support and attendance. A couple of districts are hoping to sponsor a GSR school. They have a GSR display with some material being free. He also stated some service manuals are still available.
- Liaison Committee – Temporarily Vacant
- Mini-Conference Committee – Frank G. Alternate Chairperson/Chair reported there were 150 participants this year. Meals were pretty good. Frank B. lead with short notice and Racy J. was a great GSO speaker. Frank stated he received very positive comments. He said the conference was light hearted with serious moments as well. Very successful weekend.
- Treatment Committee Report – Bob H., Chair, stated that the Treatment Committee has been very busy the last two months. They printed 1000 of the yellow flyers from the GSO “Where Do I Go From Here?”

with the COGF phone number and website and app block plus the area53aa.org website on them. The yellow flyers are to be distributed to treatment centers. They also have 1000 printed yellow business cards that have the same information as the yellow flyer to be distributed any where newcomers might be. Bridging the Gap Program tri-fold flyer is for volunteer contact information to be sent to the BTG coordinator of the Treatment Committee. They need commitment so that the new and soon-to-be discharged members of treatment centers can be matched to a Temporary Contact in their community. Once they get some volunteers, they will start handing out another tri-fold flyer Bridging the Gap Request Form. This form is for connecting inside AA members to the outside AA community. The BTG request form from the treatment centers will also be sent to the coordinator so that the Temporary Contact Volunteer can be matched to start their service. The area website also has a form for volunteers to sign up.

- Grapevine Committee – Larry B., Chair, stated they meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the COGF office at 645 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH. Their plans for a Grapevine day were postponed until a further date to be determined. One of their members constructed a new display board for use at various venues, such as the mini-conference. The committee allocated \$100 to purchase the materials necessary to update the display. A request was submitted to Area 53 for the line item in the amount of \$250 for the calendar year 2015 for committee expenses. Their present secretary has served in this position for about 2 years. In the spirit of rotation, they would like for someone to step up and take that position. Please contact him or their treasurer Rick K.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND – ASK IT BASKET SEGMENT

- Q: It has been stated at assemblies that the primary purpose of the Area is to send a delegate to NY – where is that written?
A: Steve S. advised that the A53 Guidelines Preamble point out that the AA Service Manual is the true voice – Area Assembly is specifically charged with the duties of electing a delegate to the General Service Conference. Area 53 guidelines, Article 5.
- Peggy A., Area Chair said that she is open for suggestions to make the Assembly run smoother.
- Pam R. asked if we could have visuals. She stated she had an old overhead projector if we were interested in using for Assemblies so that people could see what we were voting on.
- Frank G. would like to see a small paragraph added to the service manual on reactivating districts. He would like Area to send a message to NY. Maybe a new guideline sheet on bringing a new district to light.
- Greg M. gave clarification on the ad-hoc inventory expense. There was \$470 allocated and \$278.29 was spent on the inventory.

UPCOMING EVENTS: April 12, Area 53 Panel 65 Planning Committee Meeting 10:30am at the COGF, 645 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH.

CLOSING : Fred S. motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nita S. 2nd. Motion carried. Peggy A. Chair Adjourned with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted by

Barbi S. Area 53 Panel 65 Recording Secretary

